



## Hilda Gorena

March 6, 1934 - January 30, 2025

Hilda Alicia Hinojosa Gorena, a devoted wife, loving mother, dedicated educator, and compassionate community servant, passed away peacefully on January 30, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of faith, service, and love.

Born on March 6, 1934, in Donna, Texas, Hilda was the cherished daughter of Salvador Marcos and Marina Medina Hinojosa. Raised in a large and hard-working family with two sisters and seven brothers, she developed a deep sense of responsibility, resilience, and a caring nature.

Her academic journey was marked by excellence, as she was an honors student at Edcouch-Elsa High School before graduating from Mercedes High School in 1952. Hilda's passion for education led her to pursue higher studies, earning an Associate Arts degree from Pan American College and furthering her knowledge at the University of Mexico City. In 1955, she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and Child Development from Texas Woman's University, fulfilling her dream of becoming an educator and mentor. Her dedication to her profession continued as she earned a Master of Education in Special Education and Counseling from Texas A&I University in Kingsville, TX.

Hilda's teaching career, which began in 1955 at Mercedes Independent School District, made history as the first Mexican American to teach at the

secondary level. Over the course of several decades, she had a profound impact on the lives of countless students and their families, not only in the classroom but also through her diverse roles as a social worker, counselor and advocate for dropout prevention. Her commitment extended beyond the school walls, as she provided support to indigent families, collaborated with social agencies, and conducted adult education classes in homemaking, parenting, and life skills.

A pillar of her community, Hilda actively participated in various community organizations, including the MISD Special Education Board, the Mercedes Public Library Board, and the State Board of Education's Public School Professional Advisory Committee. As a devout Catholic, she dedicated her time to training as a Lay Minister and Master Catechist, teaching CCD classes and supporting her Parish for many years. Additionally, Hilda shared her expertise in parenting skills at Mujeres Unidas shelters and organized community events such as the National Day of Prayer and the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. In 1994, Hilda was honored as Mercedes Woman of the Year.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Hilda found immense joy in her personal life as a wife and mother. On December 30, 1955, she married her soulmate, Jose Oscar Gorena, in Mercedes, Texas where they made their home and raised their five children.

"Mama", as she was affectionately known, was the textbook definition of grace, elegance and hospitality. She created the most beautiful spaces and was a master of homemaking skills that she lovingly passed on to her students and family. She found joy in life's simplest pleasures-a yellow rose, a homemade meal, singing along to mariachi music, or in the heartfelt letters and drawings of her children and grandchildren. She taught her family to cherish these small but profound moments, instilling in them a deep appreciation and gratitude for the beauty of everyday life.

A deeply spiritual woman, Hilda offered comfort and wisdom in challenging times, often reminding us that “Everything was in Divine Order.” Her blessings, given with closed eyes and raised hands, were a source of strength and guidance. These words and her prayers have carried the family through countless challenges and her spiritual presence continues to inspire us in our daily lives.

Her greatest legacy is the loving family she built and nurtured over decades. Being part of this family, which she so lovingly cultivated, is foundational to who we are. Mama was unconditional love personified, and her light will forever guide us.

Hilda was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years Jose Oscar Gorena, both her parents, Salvador and Marina Hinojosa and Alonzo and Rosa Gorena, her brothers, Salvador Hector (Alicia), Oscar, Liborio (Josefa), Jaime, Carlos, and her sisters, Hilda “Hildita,” Gloria (Jose) Hinojosa Ochoa, and Blanca Hinojosa Jones.

Hilda is survived by two brothers, the Honorable Ruben (Marty) Hinojosa, Rene (Deanna), her sister-in-law Emma Hinojosa, brother-in-law Dr. Ed Jones, five children: Elizabeth Montgomery, Judi (Jorge) Jaime, Oscar(Monica), Rick(Sheila), George(Norma), 15 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, February 14, 2025 at Mission Park Funeral Home located at 3401 Cherry Ridge Dr., in San Antonio. The family will be available at 5:00 PM with the service scheduled from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, February 15th, at 10:00 AM at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, located at 4201 De Zavala Rd., in San Antonio. A reception will follow immediately after the service at Henke Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Hilda's memory to Catholic Charities–Guadalupe Home [www.ccaosa.org/guadalupe-home/](http://www.ccaosa.org/guadalupe-home/) or Hope for the Future [hopeforfuture@archsa.org](mailto:hopeforfuture@archsa.org) or call (210) 734-1680.

Hilda Alicia Hinojosa Gorena was a gift to our lives and her absence leaves a deep void that can't be filled. We will miss her dearly, but we carry her love, wisdom, and blessings in our hearts always. Rest in peace, Mama. Your legacy of love and grace will live on in all of us.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB 14. 6:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

# Tribute Wall

AA

“ *To the Gorena Family*

*I wanted to express my deepest sympathy for the loss of your Mom. It hard losing a loved one but it brings a smile remembering the legacy they leave behind for future generations to enjoy and cherish. My thoughts and prayers are with you and may God grant her eternal rest and let the perpetual light upon her. May she rest in peace.*

*Albert & Annette Aleman*

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**albert aleman** - February 14, 2025 at 07:38 PM

MC

“ *Mr. David And Mrs. Celina Conner purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Hilda Gorena.*



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**Mr. David And Mrs. Celina Conner** - February 13, 2025 at 09:50 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Hilda Gorena.*



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February 11, 2025 at 10:21 PM

YF

“ Your Tailored Adhesives Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Hilda Gorena.



Your Tailored Adhesives Family - February 10, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Hilda Gorena.



February 07, 2025 at 01:12 PM

HF

“ Hugo de los Santos and Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Hilda Gorena.



Hugo de los Santos and Family - February 07, 2025 at 10:05 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Hilda Gorena.



February 05, 2025 at 11:52 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Hilda Gorena.*



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February 05, 2025 at 08:52 AM



“ *I remember Mrs. Gorena well. I didn't know her personally but my mother, Rosa Cavazos Villalobos, and my uncle, Cheto Cavazos, knew her and I believe both families (Cavazos & Hinojosa) all picked cotton at one time at my grandfather's "rancho," as we called it. I remember her saying hello to my mother on several occasions when we would see her at HEB or some other place in Mercedes. I remember her kind voice, her silent strength, and her serenity, all qualities that enhanced her beauty.*

*I am so deeply sorry for your loss, and I send my deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the entire Gorena and Hinojosa family. Oscar, Rick, and George, I remember you from high school. I don't believe I ever spoke to any of you but I knew who you were because Ruben, Carlos, and Rene are (were) my classmates and friends. May your beautiful angel rest in peace and may God give you all comfort and peace during this painful time. God bless you.*



*Rosalinda VillalobosSmith*

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**Rosalinda VillalobosSmith** - February 05, 2025 at 06:49 AM

GC

“ *My sincerest condolences going out to the Hinojosa and Gorena families. Hilda always had a beautiful smile and warm hugs. She was always nice and always had friendly words and also words of encouragement. Tia  
Hilda will always be the light in the lives of her family and friends. We will miss her dearly. May she rest in peace. From the family of Fredric and Gloria Hinojosa-Cordova and family.*

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**Gloria Cordova** - February 04, 2025 at 09:32 PM

JC

“ *Father,*

*You hold time within your hands, and see it all, from beginning to end. Please keep and carry Hilda's precious family and friends in their sadness and loss. Cover them with your great wings of love, give their weary hearts rest and their minds sound sleep. Lord, lift their eyes so that they may catch a glimpse of eternity, and be comforted by the promise of heaven.*

*We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus.*

*Amen*

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**Janie Cisneros** - February 04, 2025 at 08:20 PM

AH

“ *Our most sincere Condolences to the Gorena and Hinojosa families. Hilda was a jewel of a person. May she rest in peace. Primos Tachin & Gloria*

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**Atanacio Jr Hinojosa** - February 04, 2025 at 07:27 PM

RH

“ My name Is Roy Edward Hinojosa am the youngest son of Rene and Dianna Hinojosa. I was born a preemie and fit in a shoe box according to Mama Grande Hinojosa Tias Momma. I also remember that we were young one year and tia and tio gave us wine glasses with sparkling juice that we thought was champaign later in life tia told me that was not champaign and tia wanted us to celebrate the the new year and wow we felt like adults. Tia I love you very much and you are not in pain no more with dimensia you are with tio in his arms finally God bless you and all the Gorena family

Roy Hinojosa - February 04, 2025 at 07:04 PM

RH

Oops tia and mom cut the pamper in half cuz I was so tinny now am 6 feet 5

Roy Hinojosa - February 04, 2025 at 07:05 PM

JP

My cousin Hilda was a part my adolescence and I will miss her. And an anecdote when she was beginning her relationship with the man who would later become her husband, her brother Carlos and I would giggle and spy on Oscar and her while they tried to spend some alone time on the back porch swing. of course we were caught often she would chase us through the house. I can still hear her screams while we ran laughing, until Tia Marina caught us,  
The end.

Javier Perez - February 04, 2025 at 07:44 PM

RR

I was in Mrs. Gorena's reading class when the announcement was made that JFK had died in Dallas. She got emotional and cried, telling us that she knew how JFK's family felt because one of her brothers had died young. Seven years later I was a Senior at Mercedes High School. Mrs. Gorena, a counselor, gave me good advice and kind words of support that helped me.

Rudy Rivera - February 06, 2025 at 12:23 AM